



## Visitor Center Fine Art Exhibit Space

### Guidelines for Artists

Thank you for your interest in the Visitor Center fine art exhibit space. With over 250,000 park visitors annually, many of whom come to the Visitor Center, exhibiting here provides significant exposure for an artist's work. The National Park Service's goal is to use this space to engage a wide variety of artists in sharing their unique, creative visions of the park and preserve, so that all visitors may enjoy them and be enriched by different creative perspectives on the park and its resources.

The Visitor Center exhibit space is primarily devoted to fine art painting, mixed media, and fine art photography specifically related to natural and cultural resources of the park and preserve. Its purpose is to complement the other more literal, science-oriented exhibits with interpretive views of park resources by a variety of people and media. It is our goal to balance showing regional artists who may have a special longtime connection with the park, with artists from other states or nations who bring new perspectives; and to balance professional artists with newer or lesser-known artists.

Images can relate to the dunes, creeks, grasslands, shrublands, wetlands, mountains, forests, tundra, plants, or wildlife of the park and preserve. Some work done outside the park and preserve may be considered. For instance, a painting or photograph of an aspen grove outside the park/preserve can be considered, because aspen groves are found in the park and preserve. Or, images may relate to the cultural heritage of the park/preserve area, such as pioneer history, historic and prehistoric tribes of the San Luis Valley, historic buildings within the park/preserve, contemporary people visiting the park, etc.

The exhibit space is a grey fabric surrounded by light varnished wood. Work must fit within the exhibit space, and be framed with wire ready to hang on the wall. You will need to create a professional-looking label on sturdy paper with your name, contact info, basic biography, and any short thoughts about the work. The park cannot sell any artwork from the exhibit space, but visitors may contact the artist directly to inquire about purchasing.

Artwork may be hung for 6-12 months. To allow the greatest number of artists to show their work, one-person shows are not normally done. The space allows for 3-4 artists to hang their work at one time. Depending on size, most artists can hang 1-4 photos or paintings.

### Security and Archival Protection of Artwork

The exhibit space is fairly archival. The northwest side of the Visitor Center is primarily large windows, but they are UV-filtering glass. Direct sunlight from the windows does not reach the exhibit space. Spotlights illuminate the work; there is no fluorescent lighting. The building is locked and alarmed at night. While National Park Service staff does all possible within reason to keep the artwork safe and free from theft or damage, we cannot assume any liability.

### Shipping/Delivery Logistics

Shipping or delivery of artwork to and from the Visitor Center is solely the responsibility of each artist. You must ship or deliver your artwork to the Visitor Center by the beginning date of the show, and pick up your artwork anytime after the ending date of the show. Due to liability issues, the park cannot pack or ship artwork for you.

To submit work for consideration, please email images, send a link to a website, or bring your work in person. Thank you again for your interest, and for taking the time to share your creative work for consideration!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Myers". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Patrick" written in a cursive-like script and the last name "Myers" in a more straightforward, slightly slanted script.

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